

Security Information

10 September 1953

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Assistant Director, Research and Reports  
Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence

**FROM:** Assistant Director, Current Intelligence

**SUBJECT:** Preparation of Draft for Use in White House Radio-TV Series, "Age of Peril"

1. This office is preparing a draft for use in one of the programs to be presented in subject series of White House radio-TV programs. This particular program, "Capabilities of the Communist World", will feature Mr. Allen W. Dulles and General Bedell Smith and will be presented 18 October. The draft we are asked to prepare, upon which the script for this program will be based, will include discussion of the military, economic, man power, and scientific and technical capabilities of the USSR and the satellites.

2. We are instructed, in the preparation of this draft, to "release as much presently classified information as possible".

3. We understand that the script will cover a broadcast of about 25 minutes duration.

4. Deadline for our contribution is Wednesday, 16 September.

5. Our present thought is that our draft contribution can be based very largely on contents of NIE-90, published 18 August 1953. It is therefore requested that you review this estimate to ascertain whether the sections pertinent to the fields of responsibility of your respective offices appear suitable for the above mentioned purpose. In particular, it is desired to know whether pertinent portions of this estimate a) can be declassified without serious consequences, b) represent accurate and up-to-date statements of existing conditions and c) whether additional points not mentioned in this estimate deserve treatment.

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Date:	27 JUL 1978 By: D!!

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6. [REDACTED] (extension 2341) is coordinating this project for this office and it is requested that you communicate to him by noon tomorrow (11 September 1953) the names of your representatives with whom he should deal in this connection.

/s/

HUNTINGTON D. SHELTON

Originator:

[REDACTED]

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"Age of Peril" Radio-TV Series from The White House

(c) "Capabilities of the Communist World" — Allen W. Dulles and Gen. Bedell  
Smith October 18

Military, economic, manpower, and scientific and technical capacities of  
Russia and satellites (releasing as much presently classified information as  
possible).

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10 September 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Safety of the Republic Committee

1. In preparing script material it is suggested that the general theme of the whole series be kept in mind, so that all points will conform and inconsistencies be avoided.

The overall purpose is:

"to make clear the magnitude of the effort required on the part of the United States and its allies" (Jackson Committee Report, 8 July)

to achieve "the closest possible partnership between the people and their government". (FCDA proposal of 22 July.)

"to give the public a true awareness of the basic facts concerning the world in which we live" (White House/ Advertising Council memorandum of 8 July).

2. All of the programs, with the exception of the Presidential opener, will be 15 minutes in length.
3. When drafts are ready on the 16th, please supply this office with 25 copies.

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3000 words

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Revised -- 9-9-53

SAFETY OF THE REPUBLIC

White House Radio-TV Series

- I. "The Safety of the Republic in an Atomic Age" -- The President  
(Oct. 4) (already drafted)
- II. "The State of the World" -- John Foster Dulles, George Humphrey.  
(Oct. 11) Sherman Adams moderating.  
(State to draft by Sept. 16)

American tendency: impatient, want quick cures. Soviet Communist menace implacable, unprecedented. No quick cure. Struggle probably will last for years. U. S. Chief opponent and #1 target. Denying individual rights and democratic principles, Communist aim is to destroy our way of life -- by subversion, by economic pressures, by conquest or whatever. Soviet tactical changes leave strategic objective unaltered. Our job is to strike a balance of what is possible economically and what is desirable militarily, while pursuing a course of straightforward friendliness to all non-Communist nations. How reconcile dwindling budgets with need for defense? Examples of successes so far. Problem nothing we can't lick but facts must be faced.

- III. "Capabilities of the Communist World" -- Allen Dulles, Gen.  
(Oct. 18) Bedell Smith. Sherman Adams moderating.  
(CIA to draft with an assist by State by Sept. 16)

Military, economic, manpower, and scientific and technical capabilities of Russia and satellites (releasing as much presently classified information as possible).

- IV. "National Defense in Atomic Age" -- Adm. Radford, Lewis  
(Oct. 25) Strauss, Roger Kyes.  
Sherman Adams moderating.  
(Defense to draft with an assist from AEC by Sept. 16)

Our military, economic, manpower, scientific and technical capacities. The rationale of the "retaliatory" deterrent. The rationale of the "defensive preparedness" deterrent.

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- V. "The Free World and the United Nations" -- Cabot Lodge, Harold Stassen. Sherman Adams moderating (Lodge & Stassen to write -- CDJ to contact. State to assist.)  
(Nov. 1)

Necessity for US to have and keep allies. What is needed to hold Free World together. Statistics: manpower and industrial capacities and resources of Free World (ex-US) hold balance of power between Russia and ourselves. Need for strengthening UN as deterrent to aggression. Value of UN agencies in building Free World strength. NATO & EDC.

- VI. "Preservation of Liberty at Home" -- J. Edgar Hoover, Herbert Brownell. Sherman Adams Moderating (CDJ to contact Justice)  
(Nov. 8).

Danger that in fighting communism, democracy may abandon own principles of freedom, mistake external military threat for internal political conspiracy. Differences of susceptibility to Communist subversion in Italy and France (say) from that in US. Real extent of internal danger here, its nature and how best handled. Remarkable job FBI is doing. How citizens can cooperate with FBI.

- VII. "What Good Citizens Can Do" -- Val Peterson, Katherine Howard, a Governor.  
(Nov. 15) The President for last 5 min. (Civil Defense to draft by Sept. 16)

Summary of preceding five talks. Age of peril demands patience, determination, fortitude. Emphasis on moral and spiritual values in American life worth fighting for and making material sacrifices for. Reminder that Government can't solve all problems and safeguard freedoms without support and active aid of every citizen. How the way we make democracy work affects relations with other peoples. What we do must be made more appealing than what Communists promise. How building moral, spiritual and physical strength can help avert World War III. Every citizen can help -- giving blood, buying savings bonds, supporting adequate defense measures, paying taxes willingly, joining civil defense, Ground Observer Corps, preserving fundamental freedoms, etc. The role of Civil Defense, including industrial dispersion, blood stockpiling. Responsibility of State and local Civil Defense.

ROUTING

**Top Secret**

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